

Attorney's Docket No. 38675/171789

PATENT

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1771****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Harris et al.
Appl. No.: 09/404,245
Filed: September 22, 1999
For: SPLITTABLE MULTICOMPONENT
ELASTOMERIC FIBERS

Confirmation No. 8210
Group Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: Jenna Leigh Befumo

November 15, 2002

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of July 24, 2002.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 24, 2002, in the above-referenced application. Claims 17 through 25, 27 through 28, 30 through 33, 48 through 59, 63 through 65, and 67 through 88 are pending. The rejections of record are addressed below in the order presented in the Office Action.

By way of background, Applicants have found that self-texturized fiber bundles can be prepared from multicomponent fibers which include elastomeric and non-elastomeric microfilaments. The non-elastomeric microfilaments of the claimed invention bulk around the exterior of the fiber bundle so that the bulked non-elastomeric microfilaments substantially surround and cover the elastomeric microfilaments from view. Consequently, the resultant fiber bundles are elastomeric yet have a pleasant feel due to the bulked non-elastomeric

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